

miRNA 调控成肌分化的研究进展

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摘要 成肌分化过程包括成肌细胞的增殖, 然后分化为肌细胞, 最后融合形成肌管; microRNA (miRNA) 是一类在转录后水平调控基因表达的微小非编码 RNA, 它通过靶向靶基因 mRNA 的 3'UTR, 抑制其翻译或诱导其降解。已有研究表明, miRNA 在成肌分化中起重要调控作用。根据表达方式的不同, 分为肌肉特异表达的 miRNA, 有 miR-1, miR-133, miR-206, miR-208, miR-499 和 miR-486; 和非肌肉特异表达的 miRNA, 其中 miR-27, miR-29, miR-128, miR-199a 和 miR-431 在成肌分化过程中具有重要的调控功能。另外, 论文阐述了几个与 miRNA 相互作用从而调控成肌分化的 lncRNA 的功能。总之, 通过介绍两类 miRNA 的靶基因及调控机制, 阐述最新的研究进展。**关键词** 成肌分化 miRNA 成肌细胞增殖

中图分类号 Q522

miRNA 是一类长度约为 20-24 个核苷酸的内源性微小 RNA, 主要通过结合靶基因 mRNA 的 3'UTR, 降解靶 mRNA 或阻止蛋白翻译, 在转录后水平负调控基因的表达^[1]。也有少量报道表明 miRNA 可结合到 5'UTR 或编码区^[2-4]。miRNA 在成肌分化中有极其重要的作用, 引起研究者的密切关注。通过 Dicer 敲除小鼠的研究发现, 这些小鼠的骨骼肌发育不良, 表现在骨骼肌数量显著降低, 肌纤维数量减少, 形态异常, 肌源性细胞凋亡增加和成肌细胞死亡严重^[5], 充分证明 miRNA 对肌肉发育的重要性。因此, 本文将通过介绍肌肉特异表达的 miRNA (myo-miR) 和几个在肌肉发育中发挥重要作用的非 myo-miR 的功能, 阐述 miRNA 参与成肌分化调控的最新研究进展。

1 骨骼肌的发育和成肌分化

骨骼肌约占体重的 40%, 是人体的重要组成部分。如果骨骼肌发育出现异常将导致肌肉发生病变, 如肌肉萎缩, 肥大等疾病。因而, 骨骼肌的发育问题被广泛而深入地研究。肌肉发育较为复杂, 人类胚胎时期的骨骼肌生成主要包

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括以下几个步骤：(1) 体节分化后形成含有肌源性前体细胞的生肌节；(2) 前体细胞增殖和分化形成成肌细胞；(3) 成肌细胞进一步增殖，随后分化和融合形成肌管；(4) 最后，肌管成熟形成肌纤维^[6]。

为保证正常的肌肉生长，形态和收缩性，多种与细胞增殖、分化、连接和凋亡相关的基因参与其中，同时生肌调节因子 MyoD1, Myf5, MyoG, Myf6, Mrf4 和其它的转录因子如 Pax3, Pax7 和 Mef2 家族参与肌肉发育调控^[7]。其中，MyoD1 和 Myf5 通过促进肌源性前体细胞的增殖和分化调控骨骼肌的早期发育；MyoG 在成肌细胞分化形成肌管时起重要作用；Myf6 参与分化和细胞命运的决定^[8]；Mrf4 在胚胎后期肌肉发育时和体外成肌细胞分化，融合形成多核肌管时迅速上调^[9]；骨骼肌祖细胞的特征之一是表达 Pax3 和 Pax7，这些高表达 Pax3 和 Pax7 的肌源性祖细胞构成自我更新的细胞群体，对后续骨骼肌生长和卫星细胞形成极其重要，而卫星细胞是成体骨骼肌再生所必需的；开始肌细胞生成时，表达 Pax3 的细胞迁移到体节，将形成骨骼肌，随后 Pax7 将上调表达，它能在分化前下调 Pax 基因^[10]。Mef2 即肌细胞增强因子 2，在骨骼肌、平滑肌以及心肌中高度表达，其主要作用是在肌肉发育过程中调控肌细胞的分化，影响分化过程中基因的转录^[11]。由此可见，增殖和分化是研究成肌分化的重要生物学过程。

体外研究成肌分化常用的模型是 C2C12 小鼠成肌细胞，1977 年由 Yaffe 和 Saxel 等建立；而体外研究成肌分化常用的是小鼠肌肉注射 Cardiotoxin，心脏毒素 (CTX) 诱导的肌肉损伤和再生模型，可以用于研究体内的成肌分化^[12]。

2 调控成肌分化的 myo-miR

越来越多的 miRNA 被证明对肌肉发育有重要影响。这些 miRNA 中仅有几个是在肌肉中特异表达的，大部分是在组织内广泛表达。目前，myo-miR 主要有 miR-1, miR-133 和 miR-206。miR-1 和 miR-133 在心肌和骨骼肌中都表达，而 miR-206 仅在骨骼肌中表达^[13-14]。这些 miRNA 在肌肉发育中的调控作用被广泛而深入地研究，miR-1 和 miR-206 的主要功能是抑制成肌细胞增殖，并促进其分化；miR-133 主要功能是促进成肌细胞增殖和抑制分化^[15]。miR-208, miR-499 和 miR-486 也被归为肌肉特异表达的 miRNA。

2.1 miR-1, miR-206 与成肌分化

2.1.1 通过调控 miR-1, miR-206 本身的表达, 影响肌肉发育 Igf1-Akt-Foxo3-miR-1 通路可影响 miR-1 的表达, 且直接通过 Foxo3 调控 miR-1 的启动子活性影响其表达^[16-17]。Hmox1 特异下调 Lin28 和 Dgcr8, 从而直接影响 miR-1 和 miR-206 的合成和加工^[18]。Bmp2 是 TGF- β 家族中的一员, 通过抑制 pri-miR-206 的加工成熟负调控 miR-206 的表达^[19]。Tardbp 可与 miR-1 和 miR-206 结合从而影响它们与 RISC 的结合^[20]。除了以上蛋白或因子的影响, miRNA 自身的靶基因也调控其表达, 从而形成调控环路。例如: (1) YY1 抑制 miR-1 和 miR-206 的转录, 而研究证明 miR-1 和 miR-206 均靶向 YY1^[21-22]; (2) Mef2 能促进 miR-1 和 miR-206 的表达, Hdac4Hdac4 和 Notch3 是 Mef2 的抑制因子, 而 miR-1 和 miR-206 均直接靶向 Hdac4Hdac4 和 Notch3, 从而形成正向的反馈调控通路^[23-24]; (3) 与之相似, miR-1 和 miR-206 均靶向 Pax7, 使其下调, 随后 Id2 下调, 使 Myod1 的表达上调, 从而促进 miR-1 和 miR-206 表达, 形成另一条正向的反馈调控通路^[25-26]。

2.1.2 miR-1, miR-206 靶向在肌肉发育中与增殖相关的基因 miR-1 和 miR-206 的靶基因中, 许多都与增殖相关。例如 Pax3 和 Pax7, 在卫星细胞中, 过表达 miR-1 和 miR-206, 细胞的增殖潜能受到抑制, 而分化能力得到促进; 相反, 抑制 miR-1 和 miR-206 表达时, Pax3 和 Pax7 蛋白水平上调, 同时, 卫星细胞的增殖能力得到促进而分化受到抑制^[25, 27]。Pola1, 负责细胞内 DNA 合成, 是 DNA 聚合酶 α 中最大的亚基; miR-1, miR-206 均靶向 Pola1, 导致 DNA 合成抑制, 最终, 细胞周期受到抑制^[28]。miR-1, miR-206 还能靶向抑制 Ccnd1 和 Ccnd2, 从而调控细胞周期, 揭示 miRNA 在促进分化的细胞退出细胞周期的重要作用^[29-31]。miR-1, miR-206 靶向 IGF 信号通路中的几个重要蛋白, 如 miR-1 靶向 Igf1, Igfr, Hspa (HSP70)^[17, 32]; 同时, miR-206 也靶向 Igf1, 特别地, Igfbp5 是 miR-206 的靶基因, 一个依赖于 IGF 调控的抑制骨骼肌分化的分泌蛋白^[33-35]。综上所述, miR-1 和 miR-206 通过调控许多与增殖密切相关的基因, 影响肌肉发育。

2.1.3 miR-1, miR-206 靶向在肌肉发育中与细胞融合相关的基因 成肌分化过程中, 肌细胞发生融合。Fst 是促进细胞融合的因子, 且是成肌分化抑制因子 Mstn 的拮抗剂, miR-1 靶向 Fst^[36]。另外, miR-1, miR-206 均靶向的 Gja1 和 Cx43, 它们是胞间隙连接通道, 在成肌细胞生长和融合之前和整个过程中高表

达，在胚胎发育后期下调^[28, 37-38]。二者还靶向 *Utrn*，它是另一个在骨骼肌终末端分化时被抑制的基因^[39]。

2.1.4 miR-1 和 miR-206 调控肌肉再生 肌肉受到损伤时，原本处于静息状态的卫星细胞活跃起来，重新进入细胞周期^[40]。miR-1 和 miR-206 在肌肉损伤时先显著下调，随后逐渐上调，与其在成肌细胞分化过程中的表达一致^[25, 34, 41]。且敲除 miR-206 时，肌肉再生延缓并加剧了 mdx 小鼠的营养不良表型^[34]。由于肌肉再生过程与骨骼肌发育大致相似，因此，许多之前被证明参与成肌分化调控的 miRNA 也调控肌肉再生。miR-1 和 miR-206 在横纹肌肉瘤中低表达，重新表达 miR-206 促进了成肌分化，肿瘤生长受到抑制^[42]。

2.2 miR-133 与成肌分化

与 miR-1，miR-206 相似，miR-133 的表达也受 *Hmox1*，*YY1* 和 *Mtor* 的调控^[18, 21, 36]。在 C2C12 细胞中过表达 miR-133a 能显著增强肌管的形成^[43]。而敲除 miR-133a 的小鼠，表现出中央核肌病，线粒体功能障碍，肌纤维形态受损^[44]。同时，Liu 等^[44]发现 *Dnm2*，*Pfn2* 和 *Calm1* 都是 miR-133a 的靶基因，充分表明 miR-133a 对正常肌肉发育的重要性。miR-133 还靶向 *Ucp2*，它的新功能作为肌肉发育的阻碍者，*Myod* 通过上调 miR-133 也参与对 *Ucp2* 的调控^[45]。

miR-133 还与细胞命运决定以及肌肉再生相关。*Runx2*，*Trps1*，*Prdm16* 分别负责成骨细胞，软骨细胞，脂肪细胞的发育，miR-133 同时靶向这些基因^[46-47]。因而，miR-133 可抑制细胞向其他方向分化，从而有利于向骨骼肌的发育。另一方面，miR-133a 和 miR-1 分别靶向 *Sp1*，*Ccnd1*，这对细胞周期抑制和合适的肌肉分化是必须的^[48]。在肌肉损伤前注射 miR-1、miR-206 和 miR-133，可以增强成肌分化标志蛋白 *Myog*、*Myod1* 和 *Pax7* 的表达，促进肌肉再生^[49]。

2.3 miR-208, miR-499 与成肌分化

miR-208a，miR-208b 和 miR-499 是分别在 *Myh6*，*Myh7* 和 *Myh7b* 三个肌球蛋白基因内含子表达的 miRNA^[13, 50]。miR-208a 调控两个慢肌球蛋白和它们基因内表达的 miRNA，通过结合到 *Myh7* 的抑制蛋白，促进 *Myh7* 和 miR-208b 的表达；而且，miR-208a 也能调控 *Myh7b* 和 miR-499 的表达；与 miR-208a 相似，miR-208b 抑制 *Myh7b* 的抑制蛋白，从而上调它和 miR-499 的表达^[50]。miR-208b 和 miR-499 的成熟序列相似，被报道的靶基因有重叠，功能有互补

[50]。他们靶向 Sox6, Purb, Sp3, Med13, Cbx1 等基因, 从而激活慢肌肉发育相关基因的程序, 在肌纤维转化成 I 型肌纤维时起关键作用^[50-51]。这些基因的下调进一步刺激 miR-208b 和 miR-499 的表达。Mapk6 和 Mstn 是肌肉生长的负调控因子, 也被证明是 miR-499 的靶基因^[52-53]。

2.4 miR-486 与成肌分化

miR-486 是最新的归为肌肉特异表达的 miRNA 家族成员, 它不具有肌肉特异表达特征, 但是在肌肉发育过程中起重要作用。例如, 它靶向 Pax7, 在肌肉分化时明显上调, 促进成肌分化^[26]。由于它的表达受 Myod1、Srf、Mkl1 和 Sgpl1 的调控, 它对 Pax7 的抑制主要是 Myod1 的上调导致的^[26, 54-55]。另外, miR-486 直接抑制 Pten 和 Foxo1, 还有 Pdgfrb, Srsf1, Srsf3, 正调控 Pik3ca/Akt 通路^[54, 56]。成肌细胞中抑制 miR-486 的表达, 导致细胞不能迁移, 融合受阻, 相反, 过表达 miR-486, 导致肌肉再生缺陷^[57]。

3 调控成肌分化的非 myo-miR

除了 myo-miR, 还有一些在组织内广泛表达的 miRNA 在肌肉发育中发挥重要功能, 例如, miR-27, miR-29, miR-128, miR-199a 和 miR-431 等。

3.1 miR-27 与成肌分化

miR-27 靶向 Mstn 和 Pax3, 在肌肉发育中有重要调控作用^[58-59]。Craig McFarlane 的研究更加深入, 证明 miR-27 通过负调控 Mstn, 在激活卫星细胞, 成肌细胞增殖和阻止肌肉萎缩起重要作用; 该研究还阐明 Mstn 通过 Smad3 通路调控 miR-27 的表达, 形成环路, 进一步抑制其自身的表达^[59]。Pax3 表达量的调控极其重要, 体内转基因表达 miR-27a 和肌肉再生的研究以及在卫星细胞中抑制 miR-27 表达等均表明 miR-27 调控 Pax3, 这种下调保证细胞快速健康地进入成肌分化程序^[60]。

3.2 miR-29 与成肌分化

miR-29 在出生后的小鼠骨骼肌和成肌分化时表达均上调, 是一个促进成肌分化的重要 miRNA^[61]。miR-29 与其靶基因之间形成了重要的调控环路。首先, Nfkb 和 YY1 负调控 miR-29b/c 的表达, 而 miR-29 靶向 YY1, 从而形成负反馈通路, 使 miR-29 表达上调从而促进成肌分化; 在横纹肌肉瘤中, Nfkb-YY1-29 的环路被发现异常调控; 因此, miR-29 行使着抑癌因子的功能, 为肌

肉瘤治疗提供思路^[62]。在慢性肾病伴随肌肉萎缩的小鼠中，同样发现 miR-29 靶向 YY1 并异常表达^[63]。另一个调控环路是，TGF- β 抑制 miR-29 的表达，使其靶基因 Hdac4 上调；而 miR-29 可以通过靶向 Smad3，削弱 TGF 对它的抑制，从而下调 Hdac4，利于成肌分化^[64]。YY1/Rybp/Ezh2 复合体调控 miR-29 表达从而影响成肌细胞分化的机制也已阐明，TGF- β -Smad3 通路激活时，Myod 被降解，miR-29 仍然受到抑制，Collagen 和 Lims1 等上调表达，成肌细胞向成纤维细胞分化^[65-66]。miR-29 还可靶向 Akt3，一个负责生长因子信号通路应答的丝氨酸苏氨酸蛋白激酶家族，调控骨骼肌生长并促进其分化^[61]。

3.3 miR-128 与成肌分化

miR-128 在脑和骨骼肌中以及成肌分化时高表达，靶向调控胰岛素信号通路中的基因：Insr、Irs1 和 Pik3r1。TNF- α 负调控 miR-128，从而正调控胰岛素通路，体内和体外实验表明，抑制 miR-128，诱导肌管成熟和肌管肥大^[67]。miR-128 还可靶向 Mstn 和 Sp1 进而抑制成肌细胞增殖，促进分化^[68-69]。

3.4 miR-199a 与成肌分化

miR-199a 在肌肉营养不良蛋白缺陷的斑马鱼，mdx 小鼠，人肌肉疾病活检中均表达异常，miR-199a 的表达受 Srf 和心肌蛋白相关转录因子调控，它靶向 Wnt 通路中的 Fzd4，Jag1，Wnt2；在斑马鱼中转基因表达 miR-199a，导致多种异常现象^[70]。miR-199a 还可靶向 TGF-1/AKT/mTOR 通路中的 Igf-1，mTOR，Rps6ka6；miR-199 的表达在发育，生长，再生以及不同肌肉疾病和肿瘤中等几个关键的时间点都受到调控，过表达 miR-199 时阻碍成肌分化，抑制时促进分化，肌管肥大^[71]。

3.5 miR-431 与成肌分化

研究发现，miR-431 是一个主要在骨骼肌中表达的 miRNA，通过靶向 Pax7，促进肌肉再生和改善肌肉萎缩症；在 mdx 小鼠中，miR-431 削弱肌肉营养不良的表型，可能是肌肉疾病中潜在的治疗靶点；该研究构建的 miR-431 转基因小鼠，是一个研究低表达 Pax7 的卫星细胞生物学功能的基因模型^[72]。miR-431 还与衰老密切相关，它在衰老的成肌细胞中显著下调，其靶基因 Smad4 表达上调；在肌肉损伤的小鼠中注射 miR-431，Smad4 的水平下调并显著提高再生能力；因而，miR-431 在维持随着年龄增长的骨骼肌的成肌分化能力起重要作用^[73]。

4 lncRNA 与 miRNA 相互作用，调控成肌分化

最近几年，lncRNA 引起了研究者的密切关注。目前，在肌肉发育过程中，有四个 lncRNA 的功能研究较多。他们分别是 linc-MD1，Yam-1，sirt1 AS lncRNA 和 H19，这些 lncRNA 都与一个或几个 miRNA 相互作用，影响成肌分化^[74-77]。linc-MD1 是一个肌肉特异的 lncRNA，在小鼠和人的成肌细胞中作为竞争性 RNA，是 miR-133 和 miR-135 的海绵体，可通过二者调控 Maml1 和 Mef2c 的表达；下调或过表达 linc-MD1 分别抑制和促进肌肉分化进程，且在入杜氏肌营养不良的肌肉细胞中，linc-MD1 表达显著下调^[77]。另外，linc-MD1 的表达受到 HuR 蛋白的正向调控，HuR 还可协助 linc-MD1 招募 miR-133，而 miR-133 靶向 HuR，因此，三者之间相互作用在早期的成肌分化和进入分化后的调控极其重要^[78]。通过 Chip 实验发现 YY1 正向调控一个肌肉相关的 lncRNA——Yam-1，它是成肌分化的抑制因子，沉默 Yam-1 可促进损伤诱导的肌肉再生；而 Yam-1 顺式调节 miR-715，它靶向 Wnt 通路中的 Wnt7b；至此，形成 YY1-Yam-1-miR-715-Wnt7b 之间的调控通路^[74]。sirt1 AS lncRNA 是一个在脾脏中表达高，肌肉中表达较少的 lncRNA，由 Sirt1 的反义链编码，且可激活 Sirt1 的表达；C2C12 细胞中，上调表达的 miR-34a 靶向 Sirt1，sirt1 AS lncRNA 通过与 miR-34a 竞争结合到 sirt1 mRNA 3'UTR 形成 RNA 复合物促进其翻译，从而抑制肌肉发育^[76, 79]。H19 这一长链非编码 RNA 在胚胎组织中大量表达，出生后被抑制，仅在骨骼肌中持续表达；H19 的一号外显子编码 miR-675，它是在成肌分化中诱导表达的 miRNA；miR-675 直接靶向 Smad1，Smad5 和 Cdc6；抑制 H19 的表达，细胞分化受到抑制，在 H19 缺陷的小鼠中，通过重新表达 miR-675，骨骼肌再生能力得到恢复；因此，H19 通过基因内 miRNA 的表达，在肌肉分化和再生时有重要的反式调控功能^[75]。

5 结语

综上所述，对肌肉特异表达的 miRNA 在成肌分化过程中的功能研究非常多且机制已经比较透彻，而近年来更多的非肌肉特异表达的 miRNA 的功能被阐明，充分证明，miRNA 对成肌分化调控的重要性。本实验室以 C2C12 细胞为材料，对小鼠 720 个 miRNAs 进行高通量筛选，鉴定了 39 个新的与成肌分化

相关的 miRNA, 且对 miR-17-92 家族, miR-195/497, miR-34b 以及 miR-132 的功能进行了研究^[80-81]。成肌分化过程中有重要调控作用的 miRNA, 在各种肌肉疾病中通常有异常表达, 因而, 对这些 miRNA 调控机制的研究, 最终为肌肉相关疾病的治疗提供思路。

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Research progress on miRNA regulation of myogenesis

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Abstract Myogenesis involves myoblast proliferation and differentiation to myocytes, later, these myocytes fuse to form multinucleated myotubes. MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are small non-coding RNAs, which post-transcriptionally regulate gene expression by binding to the 3'UTR of target mRNA. miRNAs play important role in the regulation of myogenesis. In this review, the function of muscle-specific expression of miRNAs(myomiRs), such as miR-1, miR-133, miR-206, miR-208, miR-499 and miR-486, as well as several non-myomiRs, including miR-27, miR-29, miR-128, miR-199a and miR-431 were introduced. In addition, several lncRNAs those interact with miRNAs to regulate muscle differentiation have been summarized. To sum up, the regulatory mechanism of miRNAs on myogenesis were elucidated and the latest research progress were reviewed.

Keywords Myogenesis miRNAs Myoblast proliferation

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